Financial Year	Number of Policies
1998-99	1301
1999-2000	1265
2000-01	1111
2001-02	1078
2002-03	1965
2003-04	1817

No State-wise data is available.

(b) Disabled persons mean those who are suffering from a permanent physical disability (including blindess) of mental retardation, specified in the rules made by the Central Board of Direct Taxes for the purpose of Section 80 DDA of Income Tax Act, 1961, which is to be certified by a physician, a surgeon, an oculist or psychiatrist, as the case may be, working in a Government hospital and which has the effect of reducing considerably such person's capacity for normal work or engaging in a gainful employment or occupation.

Policy for tribal welfare

1119. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to come out with a comprehensive policy for tribal welfare; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to create awareness for education amongst the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) As per Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2002 (10 of 2003), there are approximately 697 tribes in India alongwith their synonyms.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, The draft national alongwith the additional national policy brought out by Ministry of Tribal Affairs suggests coordinated and

concerted efforts for accelerating socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes maintaining their distinct culture, envisages socio-economic empowerment and documentation of rich traditional practices and wisdom enshrined in the tribal culture. It also addresses the problems of poverty, health and nutrition, sanitation and environmental hygiene in tribal communities by appropriate measures and provides a strong and effective relief and rehabilitation system to ameliorate the miseries of tribals due to displacements. Aslo the two draft policy considers formal education as the key to all-round human development. It attempts to address the problem of education among the ST populations and suggests a number of remedial measures to ensure better education among the tribals.

Rehabilitation of landless tribals of Vishakhapatnam

1120. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been taken to help landless poor tribals displaced be bauxite mining of areas of Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that adivasis are not deprived of their rights in their domain?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh there are no leases for bauxite in Vishakhapatnam and consequently there is no displacement of tribals. Besides, a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families has been circulated by the Ministry of Rural Development which ensures the minimum benefits to the displaced persons including the tribals.

Financial assistance to students

1121. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government release financial assistance to the State Governments under the Centrally sponsored schemes for construction of